



Newsletter



Summer Term

July 2017



DIARY DATES

14th July
School Closes for the
summer

**School will
re-open
Tuesday
29th August
at 8.40am!**



End of Another Year

Here we are again, the end of the school year. This year is special for me because our Year 6 children are the ones who started at the same time as I did. It has been such a delight to see them change into such confident young people. Their end of year performance was just fabulous, showing how far they have come and I know that all of the staff who have worked with them over the years will join me in wishing them well as they move on to secondary school.

If you are one of the parents for whom this summer marks the end of your involvement with the school, I would like to thank you for the support you have given over the years.

As usual, there have been so many exciting events over the past year. The residential visits were great fun for all concerned and we look forward to the autumn term and the Min Y Don experience, always a highlight full of memories for Year 6. We have also enjoyed welcoming grandparents in for lunch as well as other family members for a variety of events.

Issues surrounding school funding and the challenges facing schools have made headlines this year and I expect them to continue to do so. We still do not know what the national funding formula will mean for our school, as since the election no information has been forthcoming. We are fortunate that we have been able to keep classes in single year groups although we have had to accept a reduction in support staff. SATs have also made the headlines, especially with concern over the amount of stress caused to children. We do our best to keep these low key in school and make it clear to the children that they are a small part of their learning journey. We also ensure that, while preparing them well, they also get a full curriculum beyond reading, writing and maths. Again, we are fortunate to have two fully trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) to help our children with any anxieties or worries.

All that remains is for me to say thanks to you all for your continued support. We strive to offer your children a broad and balanced education and rely on you to work in partnership with us. Have an enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on August 29th.

Parent survey

Thank you to all who managed to complete the survey. 161 surveys were opened, of which 71 were completed and submitted. 90 were not completed and the results from those have not been received. I will be publishing the results in September and will be asking the Penguin Parent Group to discuss the outcomes, celebrating the successes but also considering the areas suggested for improvement. I am delighted to say that the response indicated an overwhelmingly positive picture of the school.



School Nurse

It is possible to contact the School Nurse directly on the following number:
01530 468570



NUT FREE School

Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school. Children should not be bringing anything in to school that may contain any type of nut. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products.



Online Payments

Activation letters for Parent Pay have now been sent home to our parents/carers. Please contact the office if you have not received one. Our new Foundation Stage parents will receive activation letters once the new term starts. Please make sure that you create your account over the summer holidays so that you are ready to make payments for next term. Dinners and toast will be available to book online, up to midnight the night before from September. We will still be accepting cash, cheques and childcare vouchers. Next term we will have a computer available just inside reception for parents to be able to access parent pay. Office staff will be on hand to help as required. Thank you in advance for your support.



Staff Update

Miss Murphy will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term to go travelling. We have appointed Miss Carlisle who will start with us in the autumn term. She will be teaching year 4.



Congratulations to Mrs Clarke who has been appointed as Learning Support Assistant from the autumn term who will work within Foundation Stage, initially for 2 terms. We will also be welcoming Ms Howe as Learning Support Assistant and Mrs Astle as Teaching Assistant in the new term. Ms Howe will be working in

Foundation Stage and Mrs Astle with year 1.

Drumming Performance

The children who have had drumming lessons with Mr Cockayne showcased their learning to their parents and Key Stage 2 children. They were very impressive. The older children were very accomplished and inspired some other children to want to learn. I think Mr Cockayne will have a long waiting list!

End of Year Reward Day

The inflatables arrived and were enjoyed by all. Key Stage 1 children enjoyed the bouncy slide and Key Stage 2 had the inflatable assault course. All children had a go. Those who have received strikes had reduced time to make it fair. The winning team for the year was Jupiter so they had additional time as did children with 100% attendance. The teachers also had a sneaky go after school!





Penguin Pre-School

Are you looking for childcare for your 2-4 year olds? Our Penguin Pre-school is now taking provisional bookings for the Autumn term. If you are interested please contact the pre-school manager Sally-Ann Price using the school number: 01530 832116.

Please get in touch as soon as possible as places book up very quickly.



Twitter

Please follow us on twitter:
@WhitwickPrimary

Sporting Update

End of Year Football Festival Fun

On Thursday 29th June Year 6 children from Hugglescote, New Swannington, Thringstone, Warren Hills and Whitwick St John the Baptist Primary Schools came together to play in a 5-a-side football festival. The event, hosted at Whitwick St John the Baptist Primary School, helped promote the process of



transition as most of the children will attend Castle Rock and Newbridge High School in the next academic year.

The schools are all part of the Coalville Collaborative group which works together to promote collaboration between schools in the local area. The children showed excellent skills and fantastic sportsmanship throughout the event. Well done to all the children, parents and teachers.

Year 2 Coalville Collaborative Mini-Red Tennis Event

'Wimbledon' arrived on Tuesday 4th July as Whitwick hosted New Swannington and Thringstone Primary School for a Coalville Collaborative tennis event. The children performed really well and enjoyed learning the rules of Mini-Red tennis during match play. Whitwick were the overall winners of the event. Well done to the staff and children. Thank you to Jackie Williamson who helped organise the event. Team: Blake, William, Sebastian and Alfie.



NWLSSP Level 3 Year 4-5 County Badminton Tournament

On Thursday 6th July Whitwick's Level 2 winning badminton team travelled to Babington Community College in Leicester to take on the best in the county. The team was very competitive and played some exhilarating badminton. The team finished in bronze medal position overall. Thank you to our children for their efforts and their parents for their excellent support. Team: Adam, Callum P, Callum T, Thomas, Elliott, Luke, Georgina, Amy, Joseph and Lewis.



school dinners

Free School Meals

If you are entitled to free school meals please claim these by contacting the following number:-
0116 3056588.

It is particularly important for those parents of children in FS, Y1 and Y2 to register even though you are already receiving a free hot meal.

Registering will enable the school to access funding for your child every year while they remain in primary school. They are not obliged to have a hot meal every day. This money will help to fund valuable support for your child. Details of what may be provided are on our website. If any of our families are serving in the armed forces, please let the school know.

Farewell Year 6

What an end of term it has been for our fabulous Year 6 children. The first memorable event was the performance of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies. Our production was full of super singing, dazzling dancing, amazing acting and dubious jokes. Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies was a big hit entertaining adults and children alike.

The next exciting event was the surprise trip. A lot of the pupils were disappointed to hear the news from Mrs Killip that we could no longer go because of the weather. Instead, the teachers decided we would go to the leisure centre, but little did we know what was in store for us. As the bus driver approached our new destination it became clear that we were not going to the Hermitage but we were going to Twin Lakes. Going to a theme park was a great chance to let ourselves go and have fun for the end of the year.

And not forgetting our very own Leavers Party, which was full of all sorts of emotions. A night of catastrophic karaoke, dreadful dancing and fabulous food. It was a night never to be forgotten. Finally, on Thursday morning there was not a dry eye in the room as Year 6 performed their Leavers' Assembly. Memories and photographs galore, they did themselves and the school proud.

Good luck Year 6, you have worked so hard this year and achieved so much, we are incredibly proud of you and wish you lots of luck for the future.



PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School we know it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare.

All our staff and volunteers are alert to possible concerns about every pupil. We have a safeguarding and child protection policy and anyone may request a copy from the school office.

If you have a concern, please speak to the headteacher and we will treat your concern seriously